

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 21, 29 and rejoined 28 are pending in the application. The Examiner required cancellation of the withdrawn claims 20, 22-28 and 30. Applicant is canceling claims 20, 22-27 and 30 in this amendment.

5 The Examiner stated that the reply filed on September 22, 2003 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action and that Applicant failed to amend the claims commensurate with the election of Group I, claims 1-19, 21 and 29 "as drawn to Seq. ID Nos. 5-13 and 42-27". Claims 1-19, 21 and 29 were found to be allowable if amended "to be limited commensurate in scope with the elected SEQ ID NOS: 5-13
10 and 42-47." (Page 2 of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks:

15 Claims 1, 2, 6, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 are amended to conform to the election of Group I, compounds where residue 8, among other residue variations, is M. The claims have been amended herein to encompass compounds where R² is the side chain of methionine and related sulfur-substituted alkyl groups.

20 Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments herein conform to the Restriction Requirement. The instant claims are directed to synthetic compounds, not to natural sequences. Therefore, the Office rules regarding restriction practice as related to nucleotide/protein sequences do not apply in the instant application.
Applicant should be entitled to claims encompassing the elected group:
compounds where residue 8 is methionine and variations thereof.

25 Applicant appreciates the Examiner's rejoining claim 28 into the elected invention. Claim 28 has been suitably amended.

There being no other rejection pending, Applicant believes that the claims, as amended, are in allowable condition. Such an action is earnestly requested.

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If the Examiner has questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,



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